(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTIC AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The Census, 2001 has given only the total number of persons with Locomotor, visual, Hearing Speech and mental disabilities.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Scheduled Caste status to Bengali community in Uttaranchal

1528. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1286 given in Rajya Sabha on the 16th August, 2004 and state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in granting Scheduled Castes status to Namashudra, Pod and Majhi Caste within Bengali community who had migrated to Uttaranchal;

(b) the agencies required to be consulted on the proposal of the State Government of Uttaranchal to include the abvoe communities as Scheduled Castes;

(c) the views of the above agencies on the proposal;

(d) whether Government would take proactive stand on this issue; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) The comments of the Registrar General of India and National Commission for Scheduled Castes are sought for modification in the list of Scheduled Castes, as per approved modalities. Since, the Registrar General of India did not support the proposal, the State Government was requested for ethnographic details for justification of their recommendation.